

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08

TRSE-00 DRC-01 DOTE-00 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 /248 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TT/MA:JMGARNER:JEB

APPROVED BY EB/TT/MA:RKBANK

EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL

FEO:DUKE LIGONINFO)

COMMERCE: JOHN TABOR (INFO)

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R 221410Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: THE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 1974

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LONDON FOR RON WEBB

THE ITALIAN EMBASSY PRESENTED NOTE TO DEPARTMENT DATED MAY 20 TO REGISTER CONCERN ABOUT OIL IMPORT PREFERENCE BILL--H.R. 8193 AND S. 2089. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE:

"THE ITALIAN EMBASSY PRESENT ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE BILL HR 8193, THE EFFECT OF WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE TO RESERVE A CERTAIN PROPORTION OF UNITED STATES IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WISHES TO RECALL THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, IN COMMON WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN 1972 AT A TIME WHEN A PREVIOUS PROPOSAL INVOLVING THE RESERVATION OF A PROPORTION OF UNITED STATES OIL IMPORTS TO UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS.

THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE REVIVAL OF THESE PROPOSALS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AT THE PRESENT TIME. IT IS THE BELIEF OF

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE CARGO RESERVATION, WHICH MIGHT APPEAR ATTRACTIVE IN THE SHORT TERM, COULD BE IN THE LONG RUN DETRIMENTAL ALSO TO THOSE PROTECTED. THE CONSEQUENCES OF CARGO RESERVATION ARE PARTICULARLY SERIOUS IN THE CARRIAGE OF BULK CARGOES, SINCE ITS MOVEMENT IS VERY OFTEN AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS OF INDUSTRIES THAT ARE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY.

"THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE EXAMPLE OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE RAPIDLY FOLLOWED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY BY THOSE WHO TEND TOWARDS THE EXPANSION OF THEIR BULK CARGO FLEETS. FURTHERMORE, CARGO RESERVATION LEGISLATION WOULD SPUR THE ENFORCEMENT OF COUNTERMEASURES BY OTHER COUNTRIES, ACTING UNDER PRESSURE BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SHIPOWNERS.

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"THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW THE ASSURANCES OF THEIR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

DEPT PREVIOUSLY HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR NOTES FROM EMBASSIES OF U.K., THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, DENMARK, FINLAND, SWEDEN, JAPAN, BELGIUM, AND ALSO FROM THE GOL IN MONROVIA.

GOVERNMENT WITNESSES TESTIFIED AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF
S. 2089 BEFORE SENATOR LONG'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MERCHANT
MARINE, COMMERCE COMMITTEE, ON MAY 20. TEXTS OF EIGHT OF
THE ABOVE CITED NOTES WERE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENTS
TESTIMONY TO FURTHER DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION
TO THE BILL. RUSH

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